SRC-12-15-94-M

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, December 15, 1994
Room BC-110, 10:30

Present: E. Abouheif, B. Anderson, E.M. Besso, P. Bird, T. Bui (Chair), D. Feldman, D. Gold, P. Lightbown, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, R. Storms

Regrets: K. Lipke, C. Suen

Absent: U. de Brentani, P. Dalton, A.B. Ibrahim, J.F. Plamondon

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SRC-12-15-94-A	Agenda for the SRC Meeting of December 15, 1994
SRC-11-17-94-M	Minutes for the SRC Meeting of November 17, 1994
SRC-12-15-94-D1	1994-1995 Provisional Supplementary Operating Budget
SRC-12-15-94-D2	1993-94 Summary of Research Grants and Contracts Report
SRC-11-17-94-D2	Report on Research Centres at Concordia University (Second Draft)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Chair welcomed the committee members to the last meeting of the year.

1. Approval of Agenda (SRC-12-15-94-A)

On motion by P. Bird and seconded by D. Feldman, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of November 17, 1994.

The Minutes for the November 17, meeting were approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

Chair remarked that he would like to discuss about the membership of the Task Force to evaluate the applications for financial support from Recognised Research Centres. The members of the Task Force will be S. Kubina, P. Bird, K. Lipke, U. De Brentani and E. Besso.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair reported the following:

- Last week Kathryn Lipke, Associate Dean of Fine Arts, Research and the Chair attended the national meeting on Integrity in Research and Scholarship organised by the Tri-councils: NSERC, SSHRC and MRC in Toronto. The aims of the conference are: (i) to reach a common understanding of the nature and challenges of scientific integrity issues in a changing research environment; (ii) to examine the factors that promote or discourage adherence to the best practices; (iii) to define the roles and responsibilities of researchers, universities administrators, funding agencies in promoting and monitoring integrity; and finally to recommend policies, principles, and mechanisms that will promote high standards. Topics discussed at the meeting include authorship, financial accountability, peer review, and ethical guidelines. A report will be released later which will include recommendations to the government, granting agencies and institutions. In general it was a good meeting and it could become an annual event.

- The revised mandate of the Human Research Ethics Committe entitled *Broadening the Mandate of the Human Research Ethics Committee* was submitted to Senate and the document has been approved. There has to be a link between this document and the Concordia Code of Ethics. The Concordia Code of Ethics is now with the Steering Committee of Senate, in that document there is an article concerning this issue.

- FRDP: Senate approved the Report of the FRDP Evaluation Committee. The report specifies that a task force be created to develop policies with regard to the distribution of the funds to the four components. The task force has submitted its report to Senate.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

E.M. Besso reported the following:

- The final draft produced by the task force developing the Policy on Contract Research was distributed at the beginning of December to thirty people within the University, principally to faculty members and also individuals in the administrative services with a request for feedback by December 20th.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

- J. Beaudoin and E.M. Besso attended the ADARUQ Meeting in Quebec City on November 17 & 18. The workshop to give preliminary report on the SSHRC General Research Grant review was animated by Mireille Brochu with the participation of McGill University and Université du Québec at Rimouski. The comments of the two universities were focused principally on the items generally supported by the GRG. The Université du Québec at Rimouski uses the GRG principally for the development of research infrastructure, strategic plan, dissemination transfer. The final document will be distributed in a few months. In general, the meeting itself was not a very informative one.

- E.M. Besso drew attention to the document SRC-12-15-94-D2 - 1994-95 Summary of Research Grants and Contracts Report. On page 2 of the document, paragraph 2, there has been a shift in the past year, a decrease has occurred from the traditional funding sources from NSERC, SSHRC, FCAR which has been offset by funding coming from non-traditional sources but part of this is also coming from inter-institutional collaborative projects. Page 3, upon excluding indirect cost funding and internal grants, the indirect cost funding including the 15% received from Quebec, Concordia performance in obtaining research funding improved roughly by half million dollars. Under contract research, we are on the road to regain a number of contracts or a portion of funding that appeared to be declining in the last 3 years. The number in terms of dollars has doubled over the last year and there is confidence that this will continue in the same direction.

- Recognition and encouragement for inter-institutional research projects is clearly going to be an increasing advantage to us. Finally we do have the potential, which is still probably not optimally pursued, of contract research activities. This can be better realised by making the process clear and providing appropriate support.

- There are two applications to NSERC that have been refused on the basis of unacceptably small font.

6. Question Period

None.

7 a) 1994-1995 Provisional Supplementary Operating Budget (SRC-12-15-94-D1)

Chair remarked that this document will be discussed at SCAPP, he would like to receive comments, remarks or suggestions.

Committee members expressed concerns about the future of the Concordia Aids for Scholarly Activities (CASA) fund. The Committee believes that the CASA funding is vital to the health of the Concordia Research Community and urges it be permanently included in the operating expenses of the University.

7 a) **1994-1995 Provisional Supplementary Operating Budget (SRC-12-15-94-D1)**

Concern is also expressed about the performance indicator used in Table 1 of the Provisional Supplementary Operating Budget for the distribution of the cut to the four faculties. This performance indicator does not reflect all the revenues generated by research grants. External grants bring in not only the indirect cost of 15% from the Québec government, but also other revenues such as the interest on research accounts, and the government funding based on the number of graduate students many of them supported by external research grants. Furthermore, the indicator does not take into account equipment grants, new space given to the University under programmes such as Networks of Centres of Excellence, new positions under the Actions Structurantes programme. For an equitable formula of revenues versus expenses, all revenues generated by research activities have to be taken into account.

In general, the SRC feels that resources should be allocated with a long term objective rather than a short term view. Support for areas of growth such as research and graduate studies will bring in more resources in the long term.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously approved:

THAT the CASA funding is vital to the health of Concordia research community and urges that it be permanently included in the Operating Expense of the University.

8 b) **Report on Research Centres at Concordia University (SRC-11-17-94-D2)(Second Draft)**

Chair remarked that based on last meeting's discussions, he has modified the document but we still have a long way to go.

D. Gold comments that the way that the document is written seems to emphasise on controlling, eliminating inconsistency in our research centres, developing standardised procedures, and reporting on ways of functioning. There is more emphasis in reporting, reviewing and controlling rather than rights, responsibilities and support. There should be an additional statement which basically says that we should facilitate research and improve the functioning of research centres to enhance research activity and the training of students of the centres.

There should be a standardised consistent procedure providing support to research centres.

Chair is aware that there will be a meeting of directors of recognised research centres called by Dr. Gold, he would like to have input from that group with regard to the general question of re-structuring. We do not need to go into details but a consensus on the need to restructure which has two aspects: organisational and financial. Later when the document is in a more refined form, it will be sent to the centre directors and perhaps chairs of units where research centres now belong to for discussion. Instead of having the document developed by an administrator, he would like to have a small group of research centre directors to work on it.

It was remarked that it is good to have input from centre directors, and because of the financial aspect, it might be wise and equally important to have input from the Deans.

8 b) Report on Research Centres at Concordia University (SRC-11-17-94-D2)(Second Draft)

It was also noted that if this is going to be a relatively quick process, and if we intend to arrive at something within a few months, the small group should be composed of the Deans and two centre directors, it was therefore suggested that Drs. Valaskakis, Taddeo, Gold and another centre director be members of the group.

Chair will bring this to the attention of the Vice-Rector, Academic, informing him of the importance of the document. The time frame is limited hence there has to be a directive from the VRA and that this committee has to be in place as soon as possible. It is important to get the key players involved.

9 For information:

10 Varia

11. Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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